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My name is Bobo. I work at a teahouse that has been in my family for generations. I'm a vampire bat and No I don't suck the blood from mortals. My father is a mortal. I eat animals and suck the red out of things like roses. At least I used to, I don't have to anymore. My father keeps me fed, he knows what I am and loves me all the same. He doesn't fear me (most of the time). I go to a special school for witches and monsters. It's hidden deep in Sleepy Hollow no mortal knows where it is except for my mortal father. He has sworn himself to secrecy. The academy is run by the high priest Lervio Veri. I hate him. He's a sexist selfish man who only cares about himself but this story isn't about him well... kinda but we'll get into that later but for now I'm gonna introduce my three amazing friends and their monsters too!

There's Lola. She's a zombie. At first glance at least to the human eye she doesn't look dead, but she is. her parents were killed by a few mortals. She's the last of her kind and no, she doesn't eat brains at least not from the living that is. She eats the brains of those that are already dead. But other than brains she enjoys tuna sandwiches of all things.

Then there's Lorelei. She's a siren. To call her beautiful would be a pathetic error. She is reminiscent of a poem I'd once studied by a famed Chinese poet. In lauding the beauty of his own sister to the emperor, he wrote:

*A rare beauty in the north,
One of a kind, she stands alone.
One look from her will fell a city,
A second look will leave the country in ruins.
It is better not to know if a city or country will fall,
But know that such a beauty is hard to find.*

I feel she embodies the beauty of that poem

It is impossible to look at her and not love her. To look at her is to fall in love. She's also the last of her kind. Her parents were killed by pirates a few million years ago. you may be thinking "but wait, if she's a siren does that mean she lives in water?" well technically yes. But she got help from a witch friend of mine and now she has legs. So, she's free to walk on land and no she didn't trade her voice and now she magically has legs. No, she still needs water in order to live on land. She just drinks some water every now and then in order to stay on land. And if you ever meet her, allow me to give you a piece of advice: don't touch her water cup don't even go near it she'll get SUPER mad. And you may or may not leave the encounter with a broken nose.

And lastly Jasper. Jasper is a demon but not just any demon she is the QUEEN of demons how you ask? Well her dad slept with a rokurokubi and after a while he got bored of her and killed her so she came back as a vengeful spirit and cursed him and this curse was a powerful one. One of his eyes turned orange and he began hearing voices. He even began sleepwalking but in reality, it was just a demon taking control of his body. And every time he looked someone in the eyes he would see horrible visions of every sinful thing that person had ever done. And eventually he went crazy and removed himself from this world. After her mother had taken revenge she created a child, that child being Jasper. Later in her life she made a deal with the man in white. I think the deal was something like "you become my new host and I will give you everything you desire" and so she took the deal and now she's queen of hell. ALL demons respect her. In fact, she made Lola her queen. Her mother still talks to her and protects her from danger.

I however was nothing like any of them. I was not a queen. I was just a lower life form. I was nothing special keyword being: WAS I became queen this is how.

"You're going to hell! Child of Satan you will burn in agony. God will cast thee down! Down into Gehenna burn witch!"

That's how I used to begin my morning EVERY morning. I live in the same town my grandmother lived in and her mother before her and as far as I can remember we've lived next to Mrs. Thompson. who is perhaps the nastiest mortal I have ever had the misfortune of meeting. Her voice has assaulted my ears even back when I was alive. Either she was yelling at my grandmother or antagonizing me while I played outside. I don't know how she came to the conclusion that we're witches but no matter how kind we were to her words were always the same: "die" "burn in hell" "Satan's spawn" "witches" so every morning I met her screeching as I walked past her home and tried to tune it out and prepare for the day. After all it's no good coming in to work at a teahouse when you're stressed your foul mood will poison the tea. At least that's what my grandmother always told me. The teahouse has been in my family for generations. It is always owned and managed by a woman and we never take employees. They just aren't needed. Besides it's hard to teach a newcomer the finer points of tea making. me? I've been studying tea since I was a but a mortal girl as my grandmother passed down her secrets to me. It's a wonderful job, a wonderful life and I quite enjoy it. All but Mrs. Thompson of course.

Every morning at the teahouse was the same. I began by rinsing off the cast iron teapot and teacups you can't use soap on them you know. and you can't wash the outside, you

can only rinse them. And over time they'll take on the flavor of the teas you brew in them. Which is why I have separate tea sets for each kind of tea green, black, yellow, oolong, white and herbal infusions. I'd set the metal teapots to boil hot water on the stove. You can't put cast iron on the stove either. While prepping the water I'd select the teas I would feature that day. Of course, a customer can come in and request any tea they like but I always like to give my own recommendations. I would open the store about nine o'clock in the morning and I'd spend the day serving tea. I had quite a few regular customers that enjoy the healing properties of tea people with stomach problems who liked the Jade Mint Oolong, people with anxiety who preferred the Chamomile Blossom, people who simply enjoyed the traditional taste and brewing process of Matcha.

Well, one morning, someone new came into the teahouse. Someone I never expected to see.

Tyler Jonson Thompson.

Mrs. Thompson's grandson, who spent most of his time caring for the aging crony, was standing at the front of my teahouse, watching me serve Mango Black tea to a few elderly tourists looking for something sweet and strong.

"Miss Marni. I see your teahouse is doing well," he began.

I noticed the elderly women staring at him in open appreciation – he was quite handsome, even I must admit – but I ignored him and went back to the tea preparation. Tea takes all of your attention, all of your heart – if you don't give it everything you've got, it will fail you, because you've already failed yourself.

Once the tea was prepared and the women were enjoying it iced, I stood up and approached the conspicuous newcomer.

"Mr. Thompson, I take it. What can I do for you today?" Most of the time, I'd start by asking what a customer likes, what a customer needs, what ailments are troubling them. I like to help people. But I was wary of Tyler – nothing good comes from a poisoned plant, after all.

"Well, I'm actually here to get something for my grandmother. See, her mind is... going. I read that tea is good for dementia, and I was wondering if you had any recommendations?"

Its true, studies have shown that certain kinds of tea are good at preserving brain mass, but as of yet, nothing in modern medicine is miraculous enough to reverse dementia. Still, nature works in funny ways. I went behind the front counter to examine my selection of green teas.

"You know, my grandmother, she probably wouldn't drink this if she knew you had prepared it."

I grunted in assent, none too keen on continuing our conversation. Tyler didn't seem to notice my reticence, or perhaps he didn't care.

“But, you know, I’m hoping that maybe this will help patch things up between you. I think she’d really like you if she got to know you. I’ve always found you fascinating.”

I selected some Gyokuro Imperial and turned to face him, appraising his expression.

For a few split seconds he looked a mix of sad and scared. It reminded me of that look every mortal child gives their parents as they describe the monster under their bed.

Then his face returned to normal again “that's odd...” I thought what was that look for? I then noticed his eyes were focused on my calendar. It was supposed to be a full moon tonight and a few nights after I didn’t mind I happened to like full moons. Then his gaze fixed back to me. He quickly paid for the tea and as sudden as he was there he was gone.

After a long day at work I made my way home I ate dinner with father and after we sat down and watched the news. Apparently, Mrs. Thompson was declared missing as of tonight. there was no trace of her No note nothing there wasn’t even any evidence of her leaving her home. Odd yes but I assumed she had skipped town that’s what everyone else thought too because the investigation didn’t last more then two weeks. The police ruled that she had just left town without telling anyone.

Life returned to normal Mrs.Thompson had been forgotten. But the same thing kept happening! People suddenly going missing without a trace. The small town of mortals was scared and confused, and the human policemen were stumped. They had no idea why these mortals were disappearing. But I did at least I had heard tell of it from my grandmother.

A few nights later is when the incident occurred

I was walking home after work as usual when I decided to take a walk through the woods on the way there seeing as it was a full moon and the woods are quite beautiful at night. Everything was normal as I walked down the path my way lit by the beautiful full moon.

But as I walked I began to notice a wet sliding sound. It was as if someone was cutting up pieces of fruit or eating a big piece of meat. I followed the sound and it led me deeper into the woods. Finally, it seemed like I reached the source of the sounds I had been hearing. There in the clearing was something hunched over big and hairy chewing on a hunk of meat then it stopped chewing suddenly and oh so slowly turned its head to look at me. Its eyes were bloodshot and menacing. If my heart was still beating it would have stopped. “A werewolf...” slowly I reached out one of my gloved

Hands in order to show that i wasn't scared and wasn't there to hurt it. Its eyes widened in surprise then it stood up. it was tall. then it slowly walked toward me and knelt down

in front of me allowing me to touch it. I then smiled at it, allowing my fangs to slip out. I then allowed my wings to protrude from my back. Its eyes widened again, then it reversed its transformation. the hair that was all over its body disappeared as if it was never there. its bloodshot eyes turned to normal and there before me stood Tyler James Thompson. I couldn't believe it. he was the thing making all those mortals disappear?

"Look... I started I get that you're hungry, but you can't go around killing mortals they'll find out what's going on and hunt you down and I don't want you dead"

"What am I supposed to eat?" he asked

"Let's come up with a compromise I offered I will bring you animals to eat so you don't have to eat humans anymore"

"You'd do that for me?" he asked

"Of course, I don't want you to die" I answered

"I require food every full moon" he told me

"I would've guessed" I said

I turned to leave but then I heard his voice call me back. "wait!" i heard him say "yes?"

"are we friends now?" he asked "I suppose so" I answered

"One more thing" he said, "when you visit... could you wear that red hood?" "It looks really nice on you reminds me of Little Red Riding Hood." He said that night I was wearing a red hood of scarlet gifted to me by my grandmother.

"Sure..."

"He really asked you that?" asked Lorelei.

"yes" I said

Lorelei sipped her water. "So there's a werewolf chilling in the woods?" asked Jasper "yes" I said "can we meet him?" asked Lorelei "meet who?" asked a voice it was father he had come out of the house and had heard that part of our conversation. He walked over to the table we were seated at and stood behind my chair. "Meet who?" he asked again

"Nobody!" Jasper said quickly he looked at me "meet who?" he knew I couldn't lie to him. In fact, he's the only person I can't lie to. "Fine I'll tell you, but you have to promise me you won't freak out." I said "what? Why?" "just promise me" I said "fine I promise just tell me" he demanded

“I found a werewolf in the woods and now I’m feeding him, so he doesn’t starve or eat humans”

“WH-”

“Please don’t freak out!”

There was a long pause before my father spoke

“Has he tried to hurt you?”

“No, he actually likes me”

“In what way?” Jasper asked giving me “the look”

“NOT the way you’re thinking” I said

“I don’t know man he seems to like you a lot” Lola teased

“I met him yesterday!” I spat

“Didn’t he request that you wear a red hood when you came in the woods to feed him?” asked Lorelei

“Wait what?” my father asked

“Yeah the werewolf has a thing for red hoods apparently” Jasper said

“Can I meet this werewolf friend of yours?”

“I’ll have to talk to him first, but I don’t see why not”

So, after that night on every full moon I'd go hunting. Animals were everywhere in this town, so it wasn't hard finding a few elk for him to eat then I'd go to what Tyler called "our spot." he'd hide in the trees and only came down once he knew it was me. He always referred to me as "Rose Petal" his pet name for me. I had no idea why he couldn't just call me by name, but I didn't really care. After a few months he began to open up to me. He told me about his family. And his family curse apparently every man in his family bloodline is doomed to become a werewolf. I felt so bad for him. He even told me about his dream to be a famous boxer. After a few months began to open up to him myself I allowed him to get closer to me and he was happy that I trusted him fully.

One night I returned home I went upstairs to my room and opened my door to find Lola, Jasper and Lorelei sitting on my bed, all of them smiling at me. I froze "what's going on?" I asked Jasper was the first of them to speak "we want your help" "with what?" I

asked “we’re gonna kill the high priest and want your help!” Lorelei said, grinning wider, I felt a grin spread across my features. “This is gonna be fun” I thought. “how are we gonna do it?” I asked “that’s where you come in Lola said you’ll poison his whiskey” “You think he’s dumb enough to fall for that?” I asked “maybe...” “what if that doesn't work?” I asked “you guys are forgetting something” Jasper said “even if the poison trick doesn't work I still have ways of ending him”

“Ok but how?” Lorelei asked. “According to my visions he’s cheating on his wife she said we could tell his wife and let her deal with him.” “It's settled then Lola said at the witching hour you will poison his whisky and we will dispose of the body” “perfect...”

So later that night after father had gone to sleep I snuck out through my window and made my way to the dock where we’d agreed to meet with my bottle of Arsenic. The girls were already waiting for me at the dock with Lorelei happily swimming in the water.

I walked to the end of the dock where Lola and Jasper stood watching Lorelei swim. When they noticed I was standing there they called Lorelei back to shore she was sitting on a big rock across the dock but jumped in the water and was in front of us in seconds her hair sopping wet her eyes shining as brilliantly as the stars she sat down at the end of the dock jasper and lola remained standing. I pulled the poison out from my sleeve and held it for all of them to see. Then I spoke.

“Arsenic is a highly toxic chemical that has no taste, color or smell. A victim's symptoms from a single effective dose will resemble food poisoning: abdominal cramping, diarrhea, vomiting, followed by death from shock. Death from acute arsenic poisoning can take anything from two hours to four days, although victims have been known to linger for a fortnight. For most, though, the misery lasts at least 24 hours.”

At the end of my speech I examined all of their faces. they all smiled evilly “that'll do it” Jasper said “the witching hour is drawing near we must be quick” Lola said “we will be waiting nearby send a raven when the deed is done.” Lorelei instructed.

“Understood”

And with that I spread my wings and went off on my own into the night.

I had made it outside the school in less than two minutes and landed in front of the academy. I made my way inside and after wandering for a little while I found his office. and on his desk was a freshly opened bottle of whisky. I made haste toward the desk and the bottle and grabbed the poison from out of my sleeve. I had made it to the desk and grabbed the bottle of whisky and opened it. I gripped the poison tightly and opened the tiny bottle and sniffed no sent. he’d never see it coming. I was about to start pouring the deadly liquid inside the whisky when I heard a voice. “Bobo?” it was a female voice I looked up. It was madame Veri, the high priest's wife. Dammit! I had been caught. She saw exactly what I was doing. I couldn't lie there was no way out. I would be beheaded my father would wake up in the morning without his child in her bed. He would live his life never knowing what had happened to his baby girl. “Arsenic huh?” She asked. I

stayed silent awaiting my punishment. "You need to use the whole thing otherwise he's gonna know he's been poisoned" my eyes widened "go on" she said "pour the poison in the whisky before someone else sees you"

"pardon?" I said "you heard me. She said pour the arsenic in the whisky"

Aren't you gonna kill me? I asked

"No i've actually been planning on killing him for months but I never considered poison"

"what??"

'Yep" madame Veri replied "now hurry and finish what you started!" she ordered

I didn't have to be told twice. I poured the whole bottle of arsenic in the whisky without hesitation. Madam Veri then took the empty bottle of poison from my hands and threw it in the fireplace; the only piece of evidence was now destroyed. I made my way to the window and opened it, calling a raven to me. I told it to find my friends and tell them that the deed was done. I turned around to see madame Vari staring into the fireplace

"Why do you want him dead?" I asked "I know of his infidelity" she said "besides if he's dead that means I take his position as high priest" there was a long pause. "you should probably go now." she told me. And so, I left.

The next morning madame Viri told the academy that the high priest had left in the night with his mistress and everybody believed her. When in reality she let him drink the whisky and he had an unfortunate "accident" after he drank the whisky and immediately went dead. We fed his remains to Tyler.

So, she became the new high priestess she met my three friends who helped me in the demise of her husband and grew to adore Lorelei enough to adopt her so now she lives at the academy with madam Viri and is respected by everyone there. She also found a girlfriend which was no surprise to me. Her name is Fuuka. She's a rokurokubi but the kind that can detach her head from her body and fly around in search of oil. They are really in love and plan to spend the rest of eternity together. I'm really happy for her.

Jasper and Lola moved to Jasper's childhood home which is still in Sleepy Hollow. And now they have a gang of nine ghost men and they've started a "small family business" where they take the lives of humans who've done unspeakable things and they make a pretty penny doing it too.

Me? Well after taking care of Father Viri I was visited by the vampire queen as I slept. She said I was worthy enough to take her place on her throne. She offered me her place on her throne and I took it. Now I am the vampire queen, every monster must now bow to me.

As for Tyler he did become a famous boxer, one of the most famous boxers in the world. We're also now officially boyfriend and girlfriend. Madame Viri offered him a cure to get rid of the werewolf curse but to my surprise he actually refused the offer. When I asked him why he told me that if he got rid of the curse he would lose his immortality meaning he would just be a regular human. and he told me that he wanted to spend all of eternity with me. Of course my father wasn't too happy about me getting a boyfriend at fourteen or Tyler stealing me away from him but he slowly started to trust him once he saw how much Tyler cared for me.

I couldn't ask for a more perfect ending.

FIN~

